

Norvel Hayes



Wise or Otherwise



Foreword

Norvel Hayes was never one to pull his punches. In this he follows the example of the Apostle Paul, "**I fight not as one that beateth the air**" (I Corinthians 9:26). When he strikes out against sin in any form, whether his arena is the pulpit of a church or the pages of a book, he makes every blow count for righteousness.

There are times when Norvel Hayes does not wait to simply "resist the devil"—he literally invades the devil's territory to "massage his vertabrae with red-hot religion," to quote a fellow minister.

If you are seeking a sugar-coated panacea for what ails you, there is a possibility you may not fully appreciate this book. If, on the other hand, you like your "medicine" straight and strong, you will thoroughly enjoy this book and will derive a tremendous amount of benefit from it.

The Publishers

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CHAPTER ONE

GOD DOES NOT BLESS IGNORANCE

THE PARABLE given by our Lord and recorded in Matthew 7:24, poses a question that demands an answer of every human being.

There were two men, said Jesus, one of whom built his house on a rock, the other on sand. Apparently both homes were well constructed, made a beautiful appearance, and no doubt enhanced the beauty of the community.

But one day it began to rain. It rained so hard that it created a flood condition which began to undermine the house built on sand. When the fierce winds came, therefore, that house was unable to stand the strain and it collapsed into a pile of junk. "Great was the fall of it!" said Jesus.

On the other hand, the man who built his house on a rock weathered that same storm, and when the sun shone again, he and his family emerged safe and sound. Founded on the rock, his home remained secure through it all.

The lesson Jesus taught in that parable is a simple one, yet so many people miss it.

The man who built his house on a rock is typical of all who hear His sayings and do them. Jesus called him a wise man. The man who built his house on sand is compared with those who hear His sayings but do not do them. Jesus called him a foolish man.

The question faced by Jesus' hearers that day is still with us: *Are we wise ... or otherwise?*

The Prophet Hosea warned those in his day that God's people are "**destroyed for lack of knowledge**" (Hosea 4:6). God does not bless ignorance, and the sooner we recognize that fact, the sooner we are in a position to receive something from Him. God only blesses that part of the Bible to us which we read and believe. And we can't believe anything we have not been taught, simply because we don't know **how** to believe it. It is all new to us.

It is very important, of course, that we believe and teach everything that is in the Bible. This is especially true concerning the New Testament. Those persons who removed texts from their contexts in an attempt to base an earthly ministry on them and to present Jesus Christ in a role other than that in which the Word of God portrays Him, cannot help but offer a weak and ineffectual Saviour, because He cannot confirm what they teach.

You recall that it was said of those in the first century church: **"They went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following"** (Luke 16:20).

God will withhold His power from anyone who tries to preach anything other than **"the common salvation ... the faith which was once delivered unto the saints"**

(Jude 3). Whatever part of the Word they leave out is the part God can't give to them. The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to **"preach the Word"** (2 Timothy 4:2). That means *all* of it. If we do not preach or teach the *entire* Word of God, the part we *do* teach is the only part God will confirm. What we leave out, God can *never* confirm.

For example, if a pastor preaches only salvation from his pulpit for forty years, people will be saved but not healed through his ministry. God wants our lives to be balanced out: salvation for the soul, healing for the body. When we are spiritually dead, He wants to give us life. When we are sick and afflicted, He wants to restore us to health.

If our relatives are lost in sin, God desires that they be saved. Being born again by the Spirit of God is the most important thing in the world, but that is only the *beginning* of a new and wonderful life to be lived in Him. It is wrong to base a ministry just on John 3:16 and ignore the rest of the Bible. If we do, while we may see people saved, there are so many more blessings that God wants us to have and enjoy.

Show me a pastor who preaches only salvation and I will show you a church where the congregation is suffering physically. The members don't know how to be healed. On

the other hand, show me a pastor who over-emphasizes physical healing and I will show you a church that overlooks the most important reason for its existence, the salvation of lost souls. God does not want us to be "out in left field" on anything!

When a person is lost in sin, God wants us to pray for his salvation. When a person is sick or afflicted, God wants us to pray for his healing. And when a person is demon possessed, God wants us to use the name of Jesus and cast the demon out!

The last chapter of the Book of Mark tells of Jesus commissioning His disciples (and us) to go forth with the gospel, and what will occur as a result. It is not good enough to know what the Bible *says*, however. What is important, and what gains the approval of God, is what we *do* with that knowledge.

Perhaps you say, Brother Norvel, I believe God *can* heal people if He *wants* to. Folks often say that because they really don't believe that God will do what He says He will do. Jesus promised that if we lay hands on the sick, they *will recover* (Mark 16:16). Almost every one who believes in God believes He can do anything He *wants* to do. Well, on the authority of His Word, I claim that God *does* want to fulfill every promise contained therein, if He can only get you to reach and to believe what you read.

A note of caution is necessary here. It is of the utmost importance that we do not twist God's Word. Neither should we add to or detract from it. God is only interested in one thing, and that is that we listen to what He has said. He is not going to change the Bible for us. He has already said what He means—and He means what He says.

I used to think that people were paid by preachers to say they had been healed. That is a terrible confession, but it's the truth. I believed this despite the fact that healing is referred to all through the New Testament, and that Jesus spent two-thirds of His ministry healing the sick. I simply did not know that God's healing power was available to us

today. Why *should* I know it! I was only ten years old when my mother died at the age of thirty-seven. Later my brother died at the age of nineteen. I thought that because they were both Christians, they should not have died so young. Although people came around and prayed for them, they died anyway—and I blamed God for their deaths.

The people who prayed for my mother and brother prayed "nice" prayers. But God does not answer "nice" prayers, no matter how humble we are or how much we cry. God only answers prayers that are in line with His Word.

In the sixth chapter of Genesis we read where the Lord became so provoked at mankind because of their sinful ways that He threatened to wipe them from the face of the earth. In fact, had it not been for Noah and his family, God *would* have done away with the human race. But because Noah **"found grace in the eyes of the Lord"** (Genesis 6:8), mankind was spared from total destruction. God, who is **"longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (2 Peter 3:9), extended His grace toward the inhabitants of Noah's generation for one hundred years, but no one outside of Noah and his family availed themselves of that grace.

Can you imagine anyone witnessing for the Lord for one hundred years without gaining a single convert? Those who paid any attention to Noah at all must surely have thought him crazy! But he faithfully continued his witness all those years, warning the people, "One of these days it is going to rain, rain, rain, and I am getting ready for it. That's why I'm building this ark of safety. Repent of your sins and come into the ark with me before that great and terrible day of the Lord!"

When that day finally came, the thunder rolled and the lightning flashed, the rain began to pour down and the seas began to rise up and flood the land. The people tried to beat down the doors of the ark, crying, "Let us in! Let us in! Let us in!" But no, they had shut God out of their lives too long—and now *they* were shut out! It was too late; the door to

safety was closed, and suffering and death awaited those who had mocked and spurned the message of salvation preached so faithfully and powerfully by Noah.

Today, if you refuse to believe God's message of salvation and healing (in His Word, the two are inseparable), when the moment of truth arrives and you reach the bottom line, it may well be too late for you to do anything about it. In that hour, you won't be spiritually strong enough to believe the message. *Now* is the time to read God's Word, put faith in what you read, and act upon it. If you neglect to do this—to build up your house upon the rock, as Jesus put it—when the storms of life strike, you won't be *able* to believe!

CHAPTER TWO

DOUBT CAN BE DEADLY

IN MATTHEW 7:24, the text quoted from in the first chapter of this book, Jesus says we must not only *listen* to His words but *do* them as well.

In order for us to receive from God, it is not enough to just read the Word and believe it. We must read it, believe it, then obey it. To obey means to follow the instructions God has given us for a specific thing. If it is salvation, then a person must repent of his sins and ask Jesus to come into his heart. If it is healing, then a person must follow certain Scriptural rules in that area as well.

To bring this passage in Matthew closer to home, I might ask, how does Jesus look at you—as "wise" or as "foolish?" Do you ever even *think* about how God looks at you? Jesus said, "Therefore, *whosoever* (that includes everyone) heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, is wise" (the word "sayings" is plural and means *all* sayings).

On the other hand, although He does not say it in so many words, what Jesus really means in verse 26 is, "He that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them **not**, is a dummy."

Jesus knows there is no help for us outside of God's Word. In fact, He told a group of scribes and Pharisees who came to Him one day, and a multitude of others whom He called to hear it, "It is not the things that go into your mouth that defile you, but what comes out of your mouth." As He turned away and walked off, His disciples followed Him and said, "Jesus, you offended those Pharisees." But Jesus answered, in essence, "They are blind leaders of the blind. I bring them the words of life, and if they do not believe my sayings, there is no help for them. Furthermore, the words I speak are not my own, I receive them from the Father. Therefore, there is no life for anyone who doesn't listen to me, and I suggest that you men stay away from such persons" (Matthew 15:11-14).

And my suggestion to you who are reading this book is that if you know of anyone who is sick unto death, warn him to stay away from people who do not believe and act upon the words of Jesus, for those kind of people will actually help him to die. In fact, a person with a terminal illness who lives in a house with someone who does not believe in the promises and the power of God to heal, ought to move out. If he remains in that atmosphere of doubt, the doubter will by his negative talk send the sick person to a premature grave.

No minister who visits a sick person at home or in a hospital should offer a weak, negative prayer such as, "Oh, God, heal Brother Smith, if it's your will. But if it's not your will to heal him, I pray that you will bless and comfort his family." Anyone who prays that way should not even visit a sick person, for his prayer will do more harm than good.

Such a prayer is unscriptural in the first place, but the sad part of it all is that the poor soul lying on the bed respects the man who prayed as being a man of God, and when the visitor leaves, the devil will tell the stricken one, "See, he is a minister, and according to the way he prayed, this may be the time that God has planned to take you Home. But don't worry about your wife and children, somebody will take care of them." And the sick person will accept that and say, "Yes, it may *not* be God's will to heal me." As long as the devil can talk anyone into making such a confession, that person will die.

I am against people who, ignorant of what the Bible says, go around telling others, "Well, it must be God's will to take Brother Smith to heaven at this time because he is such a good Christian." It is not God's will for Brother Smith or any other Christian to die prematurely and perhaps leave his wife and small children behind for someone else to look after. That is simply not Scriptural.

Jesus said, "Whosoever believeth and doeth these sayings of mine, I will liken him to a wise man which built his house upon a rock." The rock referred to is Jesus, the living Word, and the Bible, the written Word of God.

The Lord wants us to understand that He means what He says. It is the responsibility of believers to find out *what* He says before they go around praying for people. Otherwise they can only help to destroy them. God's power is available to all who will believe, providing salvation for the soul, healing for the body, or anything else we need. God's power is available for everyone, regardless of race, color, sex or creed. He does not have any pets. He does not pick some to be saved and others to be lost, some to be healed and others to remain sick and afflicted.

God said that it is not His will that *anyone* should perish. Every person has the right to come to Him and be saved. In fact, this is the chief desire of His heart. Furthermore, it is not God's will that some be healed as a result of prayer and others die with sickness after prayer has been offered. He is not that kind of a God. What He does for one individual He will do for another. We simply have to believe it, that's all.

CHAPTER THREE

WORDS IN THE WIND

ONE MONDAY my pastor invited me to minister on his fifteen-minute radio broadcast which was done by remote control from the church. At the conclusion of the program, the telephone began to ring incessantly. I had spoken out strongly against sin. "You out there who are in bondage to alcohol, if you don't stop it you will not only destroy your body but you will wind up in eternal Hell too. You successful married businessmen who are having affairs on the side, if you don't change your way of living, you are going to Hell," I warned. And so I went down the line, enumerating the various sins committed today, the continuance of which are destroying the bodies and souls of mankind.

Many listeners were so shaken upon hearing this that they began to call the pastor on the telephone. One businessman was so distraught that he pulled his car into the driveway of the church, jumped out in fear and trembling, and said to the pastor, "I heard that guy on the radio and he scared me half to death." (It was the part about the extra-marital affairs that got to him!) After that, the pastor asked me to be on his radio broadcast every Monday. I promised that I would whenever I was in town.

One such Monday afternoon I was sitting in one of the choir seats doing the broadcast and noting by the clock that it was about two minutes before sign-off time. Suddenly the Spirit of the Lord came upon me and I commenced to weep uncontrollably. It seemed as if a tiny motor within my innermost being had started up quickly. Within sixty seconds I became very weak and could not rise from the seat. For about fifteen minutes my entire body was taken over by the power of God.

When I had gained some strength, I arose and walked down in front of the pulpit and sat on the mourner's bench for another brief rest, for I felt a recurrence of the

experience. This time it lasted about ten minutes before diminishing in force. My body was very weak.

Several minutes later I arose, walked out into the foyer, put on my coat, and prepared to leave. At that precise moment, however, the Holy Spirit came upon me again in tremendous power, and I was aware that the Lord was trying to tell me something. Turning around slowly, I walked back up the aisle to the front of the church and laid down, experiencing again that feeling of great physical weakness. After about twenty minutes of this it was impossible for me to get up.

It was then the devil spoke to me. You will notice that whenever you take a stand for God, he will try to talk you out of it. But he is stupid, and often tries to get you to do stupid things.

The devil said to me, "Jump up right now and run outside and scream in the yard!" Now isn't that dumb? "If you don't do that," he continued, "you are going to die in here. There is no one around except you, and you are going to die on the floor of this church if you don't jump up right now and run outside!"

As weak as I was, I cried out, "No! No! No! I am not going! I am not going!" In that moment, when I made up my mind that I would not waver, God began to manifest Himself to me. And He will do the same for you when you decide once and for all that no one will ever change your mind, and that you are going to believe the Bible for exactly what it says and will not be pushed around by every wind of doctrine.

What *God* says is the only thing that should ever count for you. You may go to fifteen different people and ask their opinion on some passage of Scripture, and you will probably receive fifteen different answers. I did that very thing for about three years. Then one day the Lord told me, "If you don't stop going around asking *men* what *they* think about this or that in the Bible, you will be destroyed spiritually. Read the Word for yourself, believe what you read and act

upon it—and the manifestation will come." I tried it, and it works!

It not only works spiritually, it works financially too.

While in New York conducting a seminar some time ago, I suggested to the businessmen that they should attend every morning meeting if possible. The seminars were being held in a church, and as a result of my suggestion, the pews were filled every morning. I had never seen such a spiritually hungry group of businessmen in New York. Those who could not take off from work changed their lunch hour so they could attend from 11:00 a.m. until noon.

The last day of the seminar many said that their lives had been completely revolutionized, and some whose businesses were about to go broke resolved that they would prosper instead. Now, if you are a born-again Christian who loves the Lord and serves Him, when you say you won't go broke, you will not go broke. My constant confession is, "Thank you, Jesus, for sending the money in not only to pay my bills but with enough left over for me to help spread the gospel. Thank you, Lord." Where does it come from? How does He do it? Don't ask me. God *does* it. It just comes in, that's all.

When my daughter was about seventeen years old, we were riding in our car when suddenly the Spirit of God hit me and I began to weep uncontrollably. Terrified, she asked, "Daddy, what is wrong with you?"

"Honey," I replied, "pray for me. God is trying to talk to me concerning a piece of property we just passed." The ultimate result was that I purchased that property for about \$14,000 and recently sold it for \$90,000—and I still have twenty lots remaining on the front of it that I saved for myself! That is the way God does business when you stand on His Word. Don't try to *understand* it, just *enjoy* it. When God does something for you He lays it in your lap so easily that you marvel at the simplicity of it.

So there I was, on the floor of that church, resisting

Satan and saying, "I am not leaving—and I am not going to die!" As I said that, suddenly from my right side a gust of

wind swept over me. It was warm, and a word seemed to come out of it. This phenomenon continued as I laid there, and with every gust of wind came another word, each one penetrating more deeply into my innermost being. Simultaneously, as the wind struck my face it felt as though the flesh would drop off onto the floor! No wonder God kept me under the anointing for forty-five minutes. I could not have possibly stood it otherwise.

These are the words that came to me one by one out of the wind: *"People out there make me complicated, when I simply want them to let me love them."*

You may say, "I *am* letting Jesus love me." Yes, you may be letting Him love you through salvation, and you may be winning souls for Him, but how about the sick and afflicted? Do you have compassion on them? Do you believe what the Scriptures say about the sick and about God's healing power? You see, that is part of the stigma against the modern church, and why she is out of God's will.

As my strength returned and I walked slowly out of the sanctuary that day toward my car in the parking lot, I experienced the strangest feeling. I was aware that I was standing up and holding my balance but could not feel myself walking, yet I was. Some two hours elapsed before normalcy returned.

CHAPTER FOUR

GOD WILL NOT OVERRIDE HIS WORD

APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS after this experience, I was sitting one night behind a Full Gospel church pulpit in Augusta, Georgia. The song service was in progress. As the Sunday night speaker, I was waiting to be introduced following the usual preliminaries.

Suddenly the Spirit of the Lord reminded me of that sanctuary experience three years previous when He told me what was wrong with people. Now He was saying, "Tonight I am going to show you in reality what I meant. Tonight I want you to read from two verses in my Word, James 5:14, 15. Break these two verses down, word for word, and ask these people a question, just as if you were in a classroom. I want you to ask this congregation how many have obeyed these two verses, and through this I will reveal why even *my children* make me so complicated and why I can't help them when they do this. When they twist my Word or ignore it in their daily living, I can't help them."

I taught the people from those two verses that night, and this is essentially what I told them.

"The last time you were sick and in bed, did you pick up the phone and dial the pastor's number, or the number of one of the elders of the church, and say, 'I am in bed, sick, and I want you to call the elders together and come over and pray for me. Bring a bottle of anointing oil with you. I am calling you to do this according to the Word of God. I want you to stand around my bed, anoint me with that oil, and pray the prayer of faith. When you do this, God has promised He will raise me up. I will come up off this bed and go home!'" Not many that night could honestly say that they *had* obeyed God's Word in this area of faith the last time they were in need of healing.

If you could travel with me for two weeks it would be as easy for you to have this kind of faith as it would be to take a drink of water. It would become that natural to you.

God is not going to write another Bible. Neither is He going to send Jesus back again to die, for He has already paid the full price, both for our salvation and for our healing. Jesus accepted the stripes on His back, the thorns on His head, the nails in His hands, and the spear in His side. And while He was suffering and bleeding and dying, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

For the salvation of our souls and the healing of our bodies, what else do we expect a man to go through for us? If we can't accept what Jesus has already done, and we don't appreciate someone literally suffering hours of physical torture in order that we might have abundant life, then we would not appreciate *anything!* If you are in that position, there is nothing further that God can do to help you.

Thank God for those who teach us the plan of salvation—how to be born again—even if they never teach us anything else. If a church organization builds a sanctuary that will hold 2,500 people and after many years of ministry only one soul gets saved, that is far better than doing nothing. One soul, said Jesus, is worth more than the whole world (Matt. 16:26). But there are further blessings and privileges to be realized and enjoyed in Christ Jesus, and one of these is healing for our physical bodies.

Now exactly what does God say for us to do when we get sick? What I say won't help; it is what *God* says that counts.

"Is any sick among you?" James asks. When God says "any" He means "any." That includes your relatives. If they don't know about this, then read it to them. Tell them what God said for them to do. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church ("Call!" The church is where God gave His power.), and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith

shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Just the simple act of obeying two verses of scripture brings healing.

Jesus told the devil that man shall not live by bread alone but by "every word" that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). *Every* word. Are you leaving part of the Word out? If you are, that is the part you can't have. God won't give it to you.

Why didn't God heal my mother instead of leaving me motherless at ten years of age? Why didn't He heal my brother? Because they didn't obey James 5:14, 15. My mother was a good Christian and a faithful witness for Jesus. She could get you on your knees *anywhere* to get you saved. The Spirit of the Lord was on her, and God blessed her spiritually and saturated her with His love. But that had nothing to do with her body.

Satan will tell you that God will heal you if He *wants* to. That is not Scriptural. God plainly tells us that if we believe that way, we will die—that any person who wavers from His Word and from faith should not think for one split second that he will receive anything from Him.

If my mother and brother did not have faith for the healing of their bodies, then God would have had to override His Word in order to give it to them, and that is exactly what He will *not* do.

God will not override His Word to heal *your* relatives either. If they will not get their thinking straightened out and in line with His Word, they will die—not *perhaps* but *positively*. On the other hand, God said He would raise them up when faith in His Word is exercised.

But what if the sick person has committed adultery or some other cardinal sin? James 5:15 has the answer, "And if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." God is not interested in our sins, He just wants us to stop them! Jesus has not turned against you because there is a lot of sin in your past. That does not have anything to do with Him. All

you did at that time was yield to what you wanted, or what the devil wanted for you. Satan tried to give you one type of life but you found out it was phony. You were looking for something real, and you found that in Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER FIVE

GET YOUR FAITH STRAIGHTENED OUT

JESUS SAID that if we would listen to His sayings and obey them, He would consider us wise. My friend, don't be spiritually ignorant!

Some time ago I dealt with a college student who was a padded cell case. They had to stand guard over him. Every mental patient I have ever dealt with had gotten out of order sexually. Some have tried to jump out of windows and kill themselves. Others set themselves on fire. Yes, I have dealt with some crude cases.

I want to inject a warning here. If you do not keep your thinking straightened out where the body is concerned, lust will destroy your spirituality, and you will stop going to Sunday school and church and witnessing for Jesus. Soon you will backslide and get away from God entirely, because He does not approve of what you are doing. You are the manager over your own body. Nobody else is going to manage it.

After I had spoken in a church recently, a man walked up to me and said, "I am a minister, and you

scared me half to death by what you said. I must have help; I'm a homosexual." I replied, "You won't be one for very long." Then, addressing myself to the demon within the man I cried, "You foul spirit that has tried to wreck this man's body, I command you in the name of Jesus to come out of him!" The moment I said that, the man's mouth flew open and he began to spew forth poison onto the floor. They had to get bags to catch it in, for every time I would say, "In Jesus' name, come out of him!" He would vomit up more of that poison. Finally he became so weak that two men had to grab him by the waist and hold him up.

After awhile the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he commenced to weep. "And now, young man," I said, "you are

not a homosexual any more. You belong to God. You stand before His throne as white as snow. He has forgiven you for everything you have ever done in your past. Now you must learn how to fight the devil, and the next time that temptation comes upon you, in Jesus' name, resist it! The Apostle James said, 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you.'"

The Lord has let me know that I was anointed of Him before I ever came from my mother's womb.

When I committed sins I always hated what I had done. I knew it was phony even when I was "playing church" in those early days. I could put on a good front, drive up to the First Baptist Church in one of my Cadillacs every Sunday morning, get out and go into the church, sit there for an hour, and leave with the feeling that I did not want to be bothered with the gospel again until the next Sunday.

As far as I was concerned sinners could go to Hell; I did not make any effort to rescue them. Since I was earning \$5,000 a week, I might condescendingly and occasionally put \$50 or \$100 in the offering plate just to ease my conscience.

I thought I had everything a young man could possibly want in this world. But the day I *really* became rich was the day the Spirit of the Lord began to visit my life. It took Him about six years to burn the chaff out of me before I could pray without shame.

I didn't know how to cast demons out of anyone; I just let them do what they wanted to do. But today things are different. I now cast demons out in Jesus' name and God has honored my faith in His Word.

This particular college student of whom I spoke earlier was a sharp boy—twenty-one years of age and good-looking—but he had lost his mind and did not know who he was. He would disrobe and march in the streets with other demonstrators. A demon of lust had taken control of his mind, and he had gotten all fouled up in his sex life. Normal sex, with everything kept in its proper order, can be greatly

blessed of God. The Bible says, "Men, love your wives as Christ loves the Church"—and that is a lot of love.

If you are a part of His invisible body, Jesus loves you and wants you to love other people the same way. The same way and on the same level. He taught me a good lesson along this line in relation to my daughter and only child, Zona.

When she left the church and went back into sin, I considered myself a failure as a Christian father. I was beaten down—mentally, physically and spiritually. I had tried to teach her to love Jesus and to let her know how much Jesus loved her. But through this experience, He taught me a lesson I'll never forget.

I was on my way home to Cleveland, Tennessee after speaking in San Antonio, Texas and had stopped briefly in Houston. There, while I was sitting in a motel, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to my heart. "If you will go to Tulsa, Oklahoma, to the home of Kenneth Hagin, I will reveal myself to you in a special way."

As I walked into that home, a dark cloud was over Mrs. Hagin. The Lord said to me, "Touch her." As I did so, she was slain in the Spirit. Brother Hagin, seeing what had happened, said, "The Lord sent you here," and fell to his knees and began to pray in the Spirit. Then God said to me, "You can go home now."

Earlier, while on the way to Tulsa, the Lord taught me a lesson that was good for my spiritual pride. "You have been out of my will where your daughter was concerned, because you have been wondering when she was going to return to the fold," He said. "You have been wondering why I don't *make* her come back in. Now repent and get your faith straightened out. *Her* faith is not strong enough, but *yours* is strong enough to bring her back to me. It is none of your business *when* I am going to do anything. Besides, you have not been loving her right.

I loved *you* when *you* came in at one o'clock in the morning. Therefore, the next time *she* comes in at one

o'clock in the morning, put your arms out to her and love her."

Are you capable of putting your arms out to that child who is on dope? That child who is out in sin and who has left the church? When he comes to your house, do you act as though you are glad to see him?

After that admonition from the Lord, I would let my daughter come into my room at one o'clock in the morning and sit on my bed, and I would say, "I love you, honey." In about six months she got to the point where she would say, "Daddy, it's so nice in this house that I don't really want to go out on weekends any more, I want to stay at home with you."

When she was absent, I would pray and walk through the house and ask the Spirit of the Lord to permeate every room. Especially hers, and to make His presence known to her when she lay down at night.

One night an angel appeared to her in the house and scared her half to death. About four days later, in Alabama, she fell to her knees and began to pray and cry out to God, and He brought her back into His fold, praise His name.

CHAPTER SIX

PUTTING SATAN IN HIS PLACE

GOD'S WORD is explicit concerning our treatment of Satan. The Apostle James admonishes us to "**Resist the devil and he will flee from you**" (James 4:7). The Apostle Peter warns, "**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom *resist steadfast in the faith***" (I Peter 5:8,9).

There I was, in the padded cell with this spaced-out college boy to whom I referred earlier. Taking authority over that evil thing that was trying to destroy his life, I cried, "I break your power in Jesus' name and command you to come out of him!" Every ten or fifteen minutes I repeated this, adding, "Come out of his body. You can't stay in there because I say you can't stay in there, and because I said, 'Come out of him.'"

For six and a half hours that boy did everything possible to get me to stop saying those words. At times Satan would make him walk on all fours like a dog, and lie down in a corner and bark. At times he would holler and scream out for water. I would command, "Shut up and come out of him!"

Finally the boy stood up in front of me on one foot like a statue for at least thirty minutes, while I sat there and repeated the command, "Come on out!" Then, suddenly, his mouth opened and he began to expel the devil's poison from the very pit of his stomach out upon the floor.

We put him to bed, then placed our hands on him and claimed his mind to be restored back to normal in the name of Jesus, according to Mark 11:24, "**What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**"

That young man awakened the next morning completely healed. His father drove in from New Jersey to pick him up, and I said, "Mister, what kind of church do you attend in New Jersey?" He answered, "I attend a Bible-believing church."

"They *all* claim to believe the Bible," was my response. "I am not talking about that. I want to know if you go to a church where the pastor is not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor ashamed to carry out the duties God gave to man in the sixteenth chapter of the Book of Mark. Does your pastor speak to the darkness, 'Go from him?'" in church when his mind starts getting confused again and go to the altar and ask the pastor to lay hands on him and make this darkness leave? Can your pastor speak to the darkness, 'Go from him?'"

The boy's father answered, "I don't think my pastor knows anything about that."

"Mister," I said, "because of the abnormality of this case, it is imperative that you get your son in a church where they believe in God's power and obey the New Testament, because if you don't, you are going to spend thousands of dollars on him. The devil is not going to give your son's body up that easily. You get him in a church immediately where the pastor and elders take authority over Satan. Follow the instructions of the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 6:11 where he tells us to put on the whole armour of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

The last I heard of this was that the father had indeed found a Full Gospel church in New Jersey and had gotten his son to attend services there. To the best of my knowledge, the boy is still in his right mind.

The laying on of hands is a doctrine of the New Testament church. The last chapter of the Book of Mark tells us to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. This is one way you can be healed.

Another way you can be healed is by acting upon James 5:14, 15. God does not want you to be sick. You can receive healing for your body if you will only believe.

For your own spirit's sake, for your own mind's sake, for your own body's sake, and for your own family's sake, don't be like the man who built his house upon sand, whom Jesus

called "foolish" and compared to those who hear (read) His words and neglect to act upon them.

Rather, be like the man who built his house upon a rock. Jesus called him "wise" and compared him to those who heard (read) His sayings and do them.

In other words, "Be wise, not otherwise!"